

DELIVERING ON SDG 5.C.1. IN 2019 IN WESTERN BALKANS AND REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

PROPORTION OF COUNTRIES WITH SYSTEMS TO TRACK AND MAKE PUBLIC ALLOCATIONS FOR GENDER EQUALITY – A CSO PERSPECTIVE

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND 169 TARGETS

On 25 September 2015, the UN's 193 Member States adopted new global goals for the next 15 years at the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York.

The 2030 Agenda has become the main reference for development policies and programmes at country level.



WHO IS IN CHARGE OF TRACKING THE SDG INDICATORS?

Custodian agencies are responsible for taking the lead in coordinating and guiding the monitoring and reporting process on behalf of other partners and stakeholders.

SDG 5 Targets

- 5.1: End discrimination against women and girls
- 5.2: End all violence against and exploitation of women and girls
- 5.3: Eliminate forced marriages and genital mutilation
- 5.4: Value unpaid care and promote shared domestic responsibilities
- 5.5: Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making
- 5.6: Universal access to reproductive rights and health
- 5.a: Equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services
- 5.b: Promote empowerment of women through technology
- 5.c: Adopt and strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for gender equality

Target 5c1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality
Custodian agency UN Women



GENDER BUDGET WATCHDOG NETWORK OF WESTERN BALKANS and REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND SDG 5.C.1

The Gender Budget Watchdog Network of Western Balkans and Moldova is made of 88 CSOs that use gender responsive budgeting tools to monitor budget spending from gender perspective and to appraise gender budget initiatives in all seven economies of the region. From October 2019 to July 2020, the GBWN gathered data based on the Methodological Note by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs which reclassified the indicator as Tier II in 2015. The methodological note foresees that the process of collecting data be by the UN-Women, together with UNDP and the OECD, and led by the Ministries of finance. The GBWN used the Methodology to independently check the progress on the indicator in each of the seven economies in the region. This activity of the GBWN does not intend to compare economies just to capture status as it serves as baseline for the engagement of CSOs in gender budget work under the project financed by the Austrian Development Agency-ADA and co-financed by Swedish International Development Agency-SIDA.

ACHIEVING SDG INDICATOR 5.c.1 IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND MOLDOVA

The data was gathered by GBWN partners for the budget cycle 2019 (which includes budget 2019 preparation and adoption within the year 2018, the budget implementation in 2019, and reporting on budget 2019 execution within year 2020).

The data gathered were according to the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDGs Methodological Note on indicator 5.c.1 which measures three criteria: (1) Existence of policies/programs and corresponding allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment; (2) Systems to track allocations for gender equality; and (3) Mechanisms to make allocations for gender equality publicly available. Each criterion is assessed by a set of binary questions (yes or no; 1 or 0). If the economy has in place the document, budget and procedures that the question is measuring it is scored with 1 point and if the economy does not have the document, budget and procedures that the question is measuring is scored with 0. At the end of each summary of target economies scoring per question is presented.

The scoring according to the methodology for the indicator is structured as a 'scale' measure by classifying economies into one of three categories: 'fully meets requirements', 'approaches requirements', and 'does not meet requirements.' The use of a scaled scoring was recommended at the EGM (March 2017) to incentivize and improve tracking systems and to show progress over time.

¹ Diane Elson (2017) Measuring Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.c.1 Discussion Paper for Expert Group Meeting 27-28 March 2017 New York, UN Women; and SDG Indicator 5.c.1 Methodological note for the IAEG-SDG: <https://sdg.data.gov/5-c-1/> and <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-5.pdf>

² SDG Indicator 5.c.1 Methodological note for the IAEG-SDG

Contributing to the implementation of SDG indicator 5.c.1. CSOs working as local agents of change.

ON THE ECONOMIES' LEVEL

The Gender Alliance for Development Centre (Albania), Centre for Civil Society Promotion (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Centre for Research and Policy Making (Macedonia), Women's Action (Montenegro), Keystone (Moldova), Kosovo Women's Network (Kosovo), and Gender Knowledge Hub (Serbia) have applied the Methodology for SDG indicator 5.c.1 as a first step towards taking stock on the situation with gender responsive budgeting in each of the economies where the project is implemented. The SDG reporting informs the work of the CSOs on gender budgeting and provides for status on progress of each of the seven economies towards gender equality in budget planning, execution, transparency and accountability and identify areas where further reforms are needed, so that CSOs can use this for advocacy purposes.

REGIONAL LEVEL

At the regional level the CSOs in each economy have shared the results of the SDG Indicator 5.c.1 assessment, organized national and regional validation meetings and published reports on the GBWN website. This has helped establish cooperation and maintain CSO support for legal and administrative reform that is further needed to advance the use of gender responsive budgeting in each economy.

| # | Criteria | ALB | BIH | KOS | MNE | MK | MD | SRB |
|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|
| 1 | Existence of policies/programs and corresponding allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| 2 | Existence of systems to track allocations for gender equality | √ | x | x | x | √ | x | √ |
| 3 | Existence of mechanisms to make resource allocations publicly available to increase accountability to women and men | √ | x | x | x | x | x | √ |

Source: GBWN (2020), Reports of The Gender Budget Watchdog Network: Delivering on SDG Indicator 5.c.1 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Moldova, Kosovo, and Serbia

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 Develop a policy and legal framework for introduction of gender responsive budgeting in Montenegro and Moldova;
- 02 Fully align the public finance management system with program budgeting where it is not done and continue with performance budgeting where the program budgeting is applied. Systematic change across the region can be expected only if the economies enforce program and then performance budgeting;
- 03 Build good information systems (financial management information system) as well as a chart of accounts and budget classification structure that captures gender-related appropriations and expenditure;
- 04 Publish fiscal reports that capture gender-disaggregated data on the outputs and outcomes of policies;
- 05 Build institutional capacities (including software) for gathering gender-disaggregated data on budget execution and publishing gender budget execution reports as to include information on gender-related expenditures or tax policies;
- 06 Include information on gender equality in the process of adoption of the budget or its presentation and in public debates. To this end, guidelines for media centres in Parliaments and the communication teams in ministries of finance need to be developed to support capacity building. Moreover, the role of the Parliament in the budget process can be strengthened by working with the Women's caucuses, lobby groups, or Parliamentary Networks (in different economies it is called and organized differently) to stir policy debates on the gender impact of proposed budget in working bodies of the Parliament;
- 07 Adopt gender budget circular in Moldova to provide gender disaggregated data on outputs and outcomes of budget and gender analysis of measures;
- 08 Before planning public finance allocations in budgets conduct gender impact assessments of policies and measures. As this is limited to procedures, capacities and knowledge for gender analysis, to allow for systematic use of ex-ante impact assessments efforts need to be put to improve this situation;
- 09 Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo will need to be supported to develop Gender Equality Index;
- 10 Gender performance indicators must be systematically used within the budget process to gather data and issue reports on achievement of gender outcomes, but not as GRB reports presented separately from the budget;
- 11 Gender impact assessment need not to be just commitment but reality in Albania, Moldova, Kosovo, Serbia; while in Macedonia and Montenegro framework for impact assessment needs to be set. Parliaments can organize based on the impact assessments oversight hearings on budget implications on gender equality;
- 12 Capacity building for producing specific audits that promotes gender equality is needed across the region;
- 13 Information on gender equality allocations, especially for the execution of resources for achieving gender equality objectives has to be made public.